



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - April 2001

THIS ISSUE:

**Annual President's Report, Trip Leaders Wanted,
early details on Snowcraft 2001, overseas correspondence**

TRIP REPORTS:

**Godley-McKinnon, Banks Peninsula Track,
Iron Gates Gorge, Parks Peak Hut, Maharahara X-ing,
Forest Hill ramble, Ruapehu wanderings**

CLUB NIGHTS

APRIL 12	BYO Summer Slides	
APRIL 26	"Ski mountaineering"	Dave Henwood
MAY 3	Committee meeting	
MAY 10	"Swedish Wilderness adventures"	Warren Wheeler
MAY 31	"Climbing Mt Cook NP"	Bruce van Brunt

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm **sharp**, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Trip Grades

Grades of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

Easter

daytrip Easter Eggmont F
 Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 5pm Saturday (subject to change depending on the weather). This is the Classic Eggmont Trip that everyone is recommended to do sometime. We grab some sleep at a shelter above the Plateau Carpark before an "alpine start" and a full-moon climb of the East Ridge of Mt Taranaki in time for sunrise at the Sharks Tooth summit. Return via the slippery scree slopes of the Lizard. This is a fun trip involving a scramble on mostly solid rock all the way to the top, so long as the snow hasn't arrived.

19 April Thursday trampers
 Peter Caver 354-4479

22 April Sunrise Hut E/M
 Malcolm Parker 357-5203

...not 21 April as written in Trip Card.

Depart 7am. The classic scenic walk onto the tops in the eastern Ruahines. The hut is superbly located with views over Hawkes Bay as well as inland. A short walk further takes us to Armstrong Saddle with equally awesome views inland to Mt Ruapehu. Depending on the weather (river levels) we may duck down to Waipawa Forks Hut on the way back for a refreshing knee-deep wander down the Waipawa River back to the cars.

21-22 April Top Gorge M
 Mary Crow 06 322 8665

TRIP LEADER WANTED - Mary can no longer do this one. Contact Terry 356-3588 or Tony 357-7439.

25-29 April Glorianna-Faerie Queen M/F
 Tony Gates 357-7439

The peaks of Gloriana and Faerie Queen are located near Lewis Pass, in an extremely scenic area of the Southern Alps. There will be 6 or 6 hours driving (bookings, flights, and costs yet to be confirmed), 5 or 6 hours tramping, then we will camp. Both summits are a good climb through tussock, scree, and possibly snow. Ice axe and crampons required, and a reasonable level of fitness. Early expressions of interest required.

26 April Thursday trampers
 Donna Hayes 328-2878

26 April Club night "Ski mountaineering" with Dave Henwood

Dave will give a slide presentation of two trips into the majestic Southern Alps - the head of the Murchison Glacier in Mt Cook National Park, and the head of the Dart Glacier in Mt Aspiring National Park.

28 April Kapakapanui M
 Kevin Pearce 357-0217

Depart 7-30am. A loop track inland from Waikanae, in the southwest corner of Tararua Forest Park. Some nice forest, with expansive views from the open tops inland across Mount Hector & back out to Kapiti Island.

29 April Centre Creek Biv E
 Richard Lockett 323-0948

Depart 8am. After a short drive north of Ashhurst, this daywalk heads up the Pohangina River from the DoC base for a few kilometres to Centre Creek Biv.

3 May Thursday trampers
 Merve Matthews 357-2858

3 May Committee meeting

5-6 May Mangaehuehu TNP E
 Richard Lockett 323-0948

6 May Keritaki Loop M

Llew Prichard 358-2217
An area quite close to town in the southeast Ruahines. There are a range of unofficial tracks that offer access into some good areas of forest, with some views.

10 May Thursday trampers
Carolyn Brodie 358-6576

10 May Club night "Swedish Wilderness adventures" with Warren Wheeler

A slide presentation on canoeing and camping Lapp-style in central Sweden, and hiking and hutting in the National Parks up north - a very Boutique Wilderness Adventure in Nord Sverige in the Summer of 2000.

12-13 May Dundas circuit F
Dave Grant 357-8269

Depart 6am. This is a classic Tararua tramp from Putara roadend in from Eketahuna. It takes in Dundas Ridge, the striking row of peaks visible from the Manawatu Plains. Dave will stay overnight at Dundas Hut on the ridge.

13 May Roaring Stag M
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Depart 7am for Putara Road end. The track meanders along the Mangatinoka River before climbing up to the ridge top and then dropping down to Roaring Stag Hut on the banks of the Ruamahanga River. Bring your fishing gear.

17 May Thursday trampers
Harry Allardice 323-4390

19 May Waiopahu M
John Barnett 355-0933

An overnight tramp in the Levin area, departing 8am from PN. A good track to the historic Waiopahu Hut, with construction of timber cut from the bush, an open fireplace, and no mattresses. Not far from the hut is Waiopahu Peak, with its excellent views of much of the Tararua Ranges. The tramp will wander back down the ascent route, or continue over

Waiopahu, and down to the Ohau River (both about the same distances).

20 May Island Ridge circuit M
Andrew Lynch 325-8779

Depart 7am. An interesting day of mostly creek walking, following a circuit from the Mangahao dams in the northern Tararuas. We'll trot up the Mangahao River before veering east up Dick Creek, across a saddle into Baber Creek and back down to the dams.

24 May Thursday trampers
Vina Cottam 354-5045

26-27 May Mania Pourangaki M/F
Graham Peters 329-4722

Depart 7am. After picking up Graham in Pohangina Valley, we'll head to the roadend where this tramping route crosses farmland before heading up the Pourangaki River. We stay overnight in the hut of the same name. Sunday heads up onto the Whanahuia Range to the south, then back out to the cars via the Mania track.

27 May Waikanae areas family
Liz Morrison 357-6532

Depart 8am. A range of walks possible here, of which one, Hemi Matenga, is only a few hours long with some nice benched track and a lookout in the forested hills behind Waikanae. A longer option is Mangotukutuku Valley inland from Paraparam.

31 May Thursday trampers
Ann Green 06 374-5208

31 May Club night "Climbing Mt Cook NP" with Bruce van Brunt

Bruce has recently climbed this magnificent 3157m peak which lies just south of the Copland Pass and above the Mueller Glacier. His slide presentation will feature two recent climbs with routes through both Mt Cook National Park and Westland.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street with transport provided by car-pooling. A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

For general information or any suggestions for future tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or David Grant (357-8269).

Trip leaders: Please discuss with the trip co-ordinators, as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

*** OVERDUE TRIPS ***

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Terry Crippen (356-3588), or David Grant (357-8269)

NOTICES

FAREWELL FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last edition after 3 years at the desk. The newsletter has seen some changes in that time, notably a more contemporary PC-based format which has provided more flexibility to include items of interest such as photographs, and looks great. It has been a privilege to be part of that, and I'd like to thank everybody for their ideas, support and very positive feedback.

Above all, it has been a lot of fun for me, I have really enjoyed it. But I feel I need a change, and we have Tony Gates to take over the helm - I'm sure Tony's enthusiasm augers well for maintaining a high level of interest in the content of our club newsletter.

Cheerio

John Phillips

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

From now on send e-mail articles to
tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz
 and deliver/post hardcopy articles to Tony's work address (the same address as former editor John's:

c/- horizons.mw
 11-15 Victoria Ave, PN

If you're e-mailing, we'd prefer you to include your article as an attachment (please use Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is quite a small article, in which case it is fine to type it directly into the e-mail.

Note that e-mails with certain attachments (particularly scanned photos) will be filtered by a "quarantine" system at horizons - you will get an automatic e-mail reply from the horizons 'postmaster', confirming this. Don't worry about

this, all material gets through to us once it is checked for viruses etc. by horizons' staff.

Please note, the deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the **FIRST THURSDAY of the month.**

TRIP LEADER WANTED

to take the Top Gorge Hut Pohangina Valley trip, medium grade, 21-22 April. Mary can't lead it. Contact Terry 356-3588 or Tony 357-7439.

LEADERS and IDEAS wanted:

NEXT SIX MONTHLY EVENTS CARD

Its that time of the year for all you keen trip leaders to offer the next lot of trips that you want to go on and lead for the July to December Events Card. Excellent sunny winter trips on the tops, then spring and early summer ones. So get your thinking caps on and contact Janet Wilson (329-4722), who is chief Trips Co-ordinator, before she or one of the other Trips Co-ordinators contact you. Also we want suggestions for club night speakers and events - contact Warren (356-1998) or somebody on commitee.



**SNOWCRAFT
 INSTRUCTION
 2000**

Preliminary Notice Terry Crippen

SNOW GLORIOUS SNOW

Its time to think SNOW, and the clubs yearly snowcraft instruction programme. This traditional and very worthwhile programme is designed to

equip club members and other trampers with basic and intermediate skills so they can safely get out and about in snow on winter trips, and alpine trips down south over summer: from straight forward walking on easy snow slopes to simple snow climbing and aspects of technical mountaineering. A progressive approach is used: Snowcraft 1 assumes nil or only minor previous snow experience, Snowcraft 2 and 3 build on the previous levels.

Some people may enter at Snowcraft 2 level. Some people just do Snowcraft 1 and 2. Numbers are limited. So be in early. Pass the word round to any of your tramping friends.

The instruction consists of three weekends away a fortnight apart, two at Mt Ruapehu and one at Mt Egmont, and three week night evenings (one prior to each weekend).

The dates are:

Snowcraft 1 4-5 August (weeknight evening TUES 31 July)

Snowcraft 2 18-19 August (weeknight evening WED 15 August)

Snowcraft 3 1-2 Sept (weeknight evening WED 29 August)

For further info, details on fees, and registration form: contact Bruce van Brunt 328-4761 or Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

OVERSEAS LETTERS

Hello, everybody.

This is greeting from Japan.

How are you?

I am fine. I am sorry for being late to write to you. I really wanted to write to you, however, I couldn't because I did not have any nice news to tell you. The last 2 months that I spent in Japan were quite boring.

After the 2 months off since I have been back from NZ, finally, I got a job which may relate to outdoor education! Do you know that Japan and Korea are going to hold the World Cup of Soccer in 2002? For you, the World Cup may be a big event of soccer. However, for us, Japanese and Korean, it may have a big meaning for peace as well. My cycling team is going to hold a big cycling event in Korea in 2001 and 2002 for the

peace and the World Cup. And, I am preparing for the cycling.

It is a challenging job for me. I can do everything for the cycling. But, you know, "I can do everything" means "there is nothing at the moment". My feeling is like that I had when I arrived at the Auckland airport at the first time! Anyway, I will help to organize the cycle tour till May 2002 and I hope to get nice result at the end. Some of you may know that the word "challenge" is a special one for me because my NZ life was full of "challenges". I am in the middle of a new challenge.

Japan welcomes spring. I often go small walking to see trees and flowers with my husband. And, autumn has come in NZ. I think it is the best season in NZ. Please enjoy nice, sunny days. And, please take care of yourself, especially people in Europe because it may be the end of the winter at the moment.

See you.

Yuka Nakatsuka

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MARCH 2001

It is with pleasure that I present the 35th President's Report, the first of the new Millennium.

Membership

We have welcomed 7 new members over the last year, with current membership totalling 60. This is well down on the 84 enjoyed back in 1997 which I hope has nothing to do with my becoming President. We tried advertising in the Become a Member promotion by The Guardian but received virtually no response. However, interest in the Club continues to be sustained by the Tribune "What's On" and The Guardian, with enquiries from potential members also coming via notice boards around town, thanks mainly to Monica Cantwell.

Activities

As in the past, the committee this year has ensured that the club offers a wide variety of trips, club nights, social activities and instruction courses for members and non-members, whether novices or experts. Special thanks to Terry Crippen for again organising the Snowcraft and Navigation Courses and filling in for Bruce van Brunt on the Glaciercraft Course. Thanks also to the other Snowcraft instructors who helped make the

Courses so successful for the dozen or so attending.

Club nights were generally well attended by members, with many new visitors. This reflected the interesting topics which included slide presentations by club members on Stewart Island and the Hollyford Track, Trekking in Nepal, and Kinabalu in Borneo. Other speakers gave presentations on the Outer Hebrides, Ladakh, Mt Tasman, White Island, Search and Rescue, Mr Explorer Douglas, Antarctica, and Alaskan Wildlife. We also had a Mountain Safety Council safety video night (memorable for the small earthquake rocking Peter Wiles huge TV about), Indoor Rock Climbing at the Massey Climbing Wall and BYO slides evenings.

The Club photo competition was again followed by the very competitive Interclub Photo Competition hosted by MUAC. Harley Betts did well with some of his awesome shots, despite the somewhat biased audience (!).

Mountain Equipment hosted the Interclub Quiz at Quakers Hall to a disappointingly small turnout (front row only, but lots of fun) and also put on an enjoyable and titulating Wine and Cheese Gear Sale Night for us.

The End-of-Year BBQ at Ashhurst was most enjoyable, even if the BBQ was a bit late arriving; and the January BBQ at Horseshoe Bend was very pleasant despite the low turnout and access road locked – the cliff top spot being just right on the night.

Past Trips

We have offered a wide variety of trips again this year. The most popular area was the Ruahine Ranges (23 trips), followed by the Tararua Ranges (11), local walks (9), Tongariro National Park (5). Other destinations included the Kawekas, Haurangi Range and Atene Walkway on the Wanganui. There was also a trip to Piripiri Caves, rock-climbing at Titahi Bay and Mangatepopo, as well as extended South Island trips to Nelson Lakes, the 1,000 Acre Plateau, the Olivine Ice Plateau and the Godley.

Analysis of past trips shows that, on average, there has been just over 5 people on each day trip and 5.6 on overnighters (4.5 if you don't include Snowcraft). Rangi loses its spot as most popular destination with 12 on my day-trip to the Blue

Range Hut via Reef Creek, and 9 people went on the Tararua Crossing Trip to enjoy the fine conditions over Labour Weekend.

Some 29% of trips Did-Not-Go which is a big improvement on the 40% last year but one wonders if we are all getting a little too soft to brave the weather, or just more sensible. Thanks especially to Terry Crippen and Janet Wilson for co-ordinating the Trip Programme, and to all the trip leaders without whom, of course, none of the trips would have been possible.

There have been many excellent private trips to the Southern Alps, with Andrew Lynch and Chris Underwood both joining the elite who have climbed Mt Aspiring. There have also been many private overseas trips, and to tap this wealth of local knowledge within the club a list of extended trips has been compiled by Terry Crippen. In the last year alone his list totals 37 and includes trips not only in New Zealand, but also Antarctica, Bolivia, Chile, Nepal, Scotland (where Peter Burgess bagged 230 Munroes), Spain, Sweden and Switzerland - plenty of choice for future club night slide shows there.

Search and Rescue

The club was involved in the Otaki Search and Rescue which resulted in the lost party being found by helicopter, drowned after being swept away crossing the river.

SAR Training Courses included Track and Clue Awareness (7 members) and Night Navigation (4 members). These were well worth while and enjoyed by those attending. Mick Leyland and Terry Crippen have been most active in co-ordinating those members who have volunteered for SAR duties, with Terry also about to take on the role of Search Adviser. The next SAREX is later than usual, in June. Let us know if you want to be involved in this very worthwhile activity.

Sponsorship and New Gear

Further donations from the Hillary Commission and Trustbank Community Trust have enabled the purchase of a few more helmets and climbing gear. We intend to boost our gear this year to have 10 complete sets of climbing gear available for instruction.

Looking to the 21st Century

Modern technology is making more and more inroads into the way the club does things, with

opportunities developing that we could barely imagine last century. Last year the committee has toyed with the idea of purchasing GPS units, CD-ROM topo maps, and setting up a PNTMC website. On a more mundane level the use of e-mail is now an almost essential tool to contact Committee members, with cell phones now regarded as a useful if not essential convenience on trips.

Apart from these innovations the outdoors experience is under continuing threat not only from pests, but problems with DOC management. It is pleasing to see DOC keen to overcome these problems with the recent Hut Fee System being put on hold after 260 submissions. Hopefully common sense will prevail but it seems that you can't keep politics out of the wild and remote places either. We will continue to attend the local DOC User Group Meetings and make submissions

on policy documents such as Park Management Plans as they arise.

All club members are welcome to be involved in these activities so feel free – it is our club and our future.

Meanwhile, my thanks must go to the Committee who have helped keep the Club running so effectively over the year. Special thanks to John Phillips as Newsletter Editor, Peter Wiles as Treasurer, Sarah Todd as Secretary, and Terry Crippen as my trusty Vice-President.

Thank you, and Good Tramping.

Warren Wheeler
29 March 2001

TRIP REPORTS

GODLEY - MCKINNON

Jan 20-29

by Terry Crippen
photos by Peter Wiles

The lads met in Tekapo; Nigel and Peter by bus from the fleshpots of Christchurch, Terry by Pajero from the Olivines. Peter discovered that in transit he had lost the buckle of his pack waist belt. Being able to buckle up ones waist strap is highly desirable for pack stability on some of the painful steep moraine, rock bluffs, and scree we knew we would be encountering. So we needed some help from the locals. Fortunately Stephen Joll (of the original Lilybank runholder family), was able to lend Peter one of his. A sort out of gear, discussion of trip details and route info, a coffee and dounut and we were off (in the Pajero - essential for this trip).

Up the eastern side of Lake Tekapo via the Lilybank road. Our first obstacle, fording the Macauley River (no bridge) was straight forward. The river was at normal low levels. With a bit of a bump, Terry discovered the difference between entry and exit angles of the vehicle. Past the Lilybank Lodge (ex Indonesia president's family etc) and though Lilybank station via the well sign-posted public road. Access problems for Lilybank station have now been sorted out as part of the Tenure review process for this area. Lilybank station now is very much smaller in area, with most of the slopes above about 1100m now part of the DoC estate; the Godley-Macauley

Conservation area. The station has recently been sold by the Singapore interests (read Indonesia) to USA interests.

Its about 25 km up valley to Separation Stream, the first of the Godley lakes, and Godley Hut, so it was certainly pleasing to be doing it by 4WD - saving a hot, painful, full climbing pack, days slog. Route finding was sometimes necessary were the vehicle track(s) faded out on the extensive scree or where older tracks had been washed out, elsewhere the track was well worn and well marked. It crosses many side streams and occasionally very small braids of the Godley itself. The views just kept getting better and better as we approached the Main Divide. It took us about 2 or 3 hours to reach the end of the "road" at Separation Stream and had a pleasant 45 minute walk across scree and moraine past the first lake to Godley Hut (NZAC and 1930's vintage).

We had the place to ourselves - in fact during the whole trip we didn't meet or sight any others - a indication of how access into the upper Godley past the next lake has become difficult and quite off-putting.

A rest day followed due to rain and wind and the fact that routes into the upper Godley need good visibility and dry conditions. The rain did stop by dinnertime so we were able to investigate one route - up the true left of the upper Godley lake.

Result of investigation: impossible due to bluffs that come down and into the lake. The second route we also flagged away - crossing the lakes outlet river; grey turbid, fast flowing and unknown depth. Another route via the lake needed a rubber raft (didn't have one) or ice (would have to wait till mid-winter for the freeze and we forgot our ice skates).

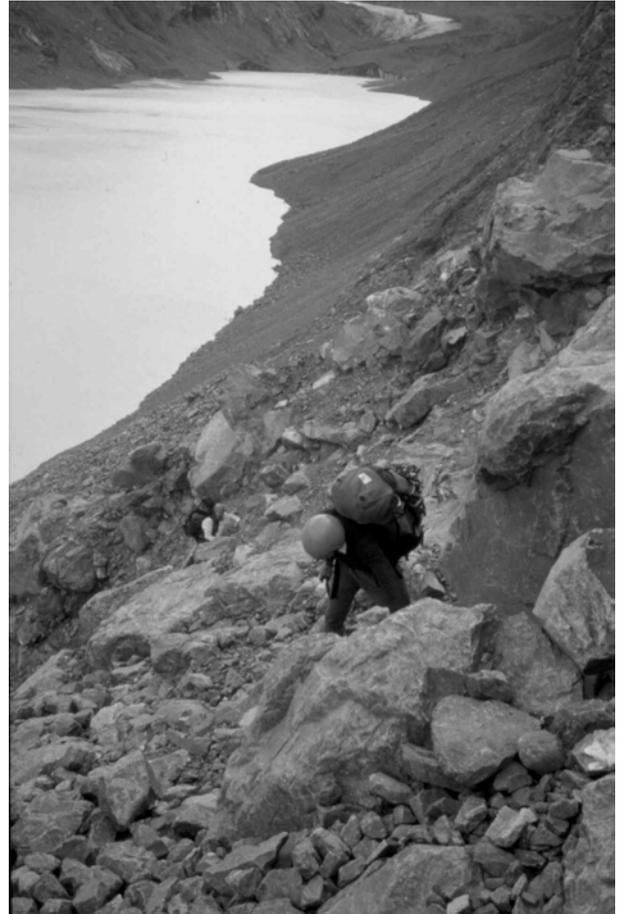
The third day, fine and clear, so we were off; a steep 600m-climb behind the hut, up tussock and rock onto a ledge, [Tony and Nigel G: we disturbed about 7 chamois], NE a bit then a very steep drop of 600m, down scree, bluffs and moraine faces and gullies to the lake, then about two km of lake edge moraine and scree, into a brisk wind, before reaching the entrenched moraine valley at the head of the lake.



View of upper Godley and upper lake from top of 600 m climb to avoid bluff along lake.

Lunch and a rest. Travel up this moraine valley was relatively easy: moraine and gravels often with ice beneath - like a normal incised stream valley, except no vegetation and obviously all the terraces and channels are very temporary, and the slopes adjacent to the terraces and channels are steep (some times over vertical) ice or moraine covered ice, actively releasing boulders and gravel day and night.

We found a camp site past the Neish glacier junction on a low terrace that was hopefully away from boulders coming down and away from flooding or bank erosion, with some shelter from the winds and close to water. We suspected if there was any significantly heavy rain our best option would be to break camp rapidly and clamber up onto the active moraine body and find something that resembled a flat stable site - albeit exposed to, no doubt, the accompanying gale force winds!



Struggle up 350 m climb on steep moraine from lake on return.

We improved the camp site - leveling out a tent area removing the big goolies and covering the area with fine shingle, Nigel and Terry did their usual shelter wall construction for the tent and cooker while Peter checked out an access route for the following days climb. Then a big dinner and off to bed lulled to sleep by the restful sounds of ice falls and rock avalanches, and closer to hand boulders toppling down the ice walls of our little valley.

Next day fine and clear when the alarm went off at 4 am. Nigel being the dairy farmer would prefer late alarms (6am) when he is on holiday. Still in the dark, we followed Peter's cairned route up a narrow gully and onto the moraine on the Amherst Glacier which falls from the Main Divide to the east of the Neish plateau. We had decided to attempt some of the Main Divide peaks from the snow shelf that the Amherst gives access to, since, firstly we could see a feasible route from our camp and, secondly once on the shelf it would enable us to view routes on D'Archiac -which is hidden from view from our camp. It was an easy climb up onto the snow shelf with excellent

cramponing across the neve to the rocks of Malthus peak (2210m). The odd schrund and some rock work then onto the summit.



Rock pitch to summit of Mt Malthus.

An excellent view across the Godley to D'Archiac, across the Neish to Wolseley (also on our plans) and north across the Whataroa catchment to the Gardens of Eden and Allah. The wind was starting to blow and the temperature was dropping as cloud began to arrive from the west. We quickly headed back down onto the neve and round to the western ridge of Dennistoun Peak (2315m). Quite windy, but at least sheltered on the summit. Wind driven mist was starting to ooze over the Divide so we made a steady decent onto the neve, arriving just in time to be enveloped in the whiteout, and rain. So we mapped and compassed across and down picking up our trail on the Amherst, descending to the comforts of our camp. - quite wet. So we knew the next day was off for climbing - it would be a drying out day if fine.

And it did turn out fine, so lots of gear on all the rocks drying out and the lads reading all morning. The afternoon saw us climbing up to Sealy Pass

(which saddles with Scone Creek) to check out the icefalls of the Neish Plateau for the following days climbing - but to no avail it turned out.

The next day (Day 6), climbing was off since crud was coming across the Divide from the west and ominous pressure waves were above us. So it was time to exit our camp - we still had the McKinnon part of the trip to do and couldn't afford to be stuck in the upper Godley - needing fine and dry conditions to exit back to the hut and Separation Stream.

We at least knew the route back to the hut, so travel would be a bit quicker. So down the lake edge and on and up the steep moraine, bluffs and scree. As is often the case on this sort of terrain we ended taking a slightly different line up than the one we used coming down - some of us thought it better, some worse - but at least nobody got clobbered by any rocks from above. By the time we got to the high ledge and a large rock to shelter behind for lunch the rain had settled in behind us. Off down to the hut just in time to avoid the heavy rain. Plenty of food eating as we could restock once back at the vehicle.

Next morning fine and clear. (The weather for most of January so far has been highly variable changing almost daily). Back to Separation Stream, and the bumpy drive to Red Stag Hut, replenishing supplies, then the tramp up the McKinnon Valley. Our plan was to attempt Sibbald (2811m) from the McKinnon. Sibbald is normally climbed from the Macauley Valley to the east.

We found the only descent campsite, about 4 km up on the McKinnon - a part grass / part gravel terrace remnant. We soon build another excellent camp. Sibbald remained hidden from view behind over-steeped valley sides, but Mt Forbes (2583m), with its small ice falls and multiple rock summits, looked both impressive and inviting up the head of the valley.



Campsite in McKinnon Stream. Mt Forbes at head of valley.



Campsite on glacier in upper valley.

In typical fashion the weather deteriorated slightly in the evening coating the higher slopes with fresh snow but the following 4 am morning it was fine and clear but windy. So off upstream and up tussock and snowgrass slopes onto scree covered ledges adjacent to the crest of the Sibbald range. We worked our way south gradually climbing high heading towards the steep snow-face and rocks of Sibbald's summit (or so we thought). Up an excellent wind scoop gully against impressive bluffs, across easier snow and rock and we were there. But alas not on the true summit - that was about 200m as the crow flies, and about 30 m

higher, but separated from us by a deep nasty gut !#?! What a bugger. We investigated dropping into the gut via hidden rotten rock; the west face via iced up rock, and the east face via an over-steepened decent down a sun-softened, crevassed, avalanche prone snow slope. Since the strong wind was creating very cold temperatures (freezing beards) we decided to save the top for another trip (via the Macauley). So after a sheltered lunch stop it was into the wind and down to the scree and tussock, with plenty of time to view Forbes hopefully for the next day - our last day for climbing.

The next day turned out to be a cracker - fine and clear and no wind. A late alarm (4:45 am) [*of course, Mr Crippen . . .* - Ed.], then boulder hopping up the McKinnon to the start of the excellent series of easy rock steps onto the snow-shelf and small glacier on the south side of Forbes. (We disturbed some more chamois on the way up). The first icefall was a pleasant walk. The second was more interesting needing a couple of rope pitches. We used all our ice screws and snowstakes. Above this it was off to both of the main highest summits (1m height difference between them) and an hour or so of lunch with photos from summit to summit. D'Archiac looked close and big. North, south and west the Alps were impressive. In the other direction, the dry Two Thumb and Cloudy Peak ranges. Then back down via the same route with plenty of glissading and a last rest on a rock ledge before back to camp. An excellent day and climb to finish the trip off. Our last day was back down the McKinnon to Red Stag hut and the Pajero, in fine stable weather (it was to last for a while). Driving down the Godley river flats and screes was trickier than coming up valley - it appeared harder to see the tracks, perhaps due to the slope direction or the shadowing or both. One side stream produced a loud thunk on the vehicle's underside and a distinctly louder and vibrating engine noise on exiting. This was fixed very expertly by the local Tekapo garage in the space of about a minute. Thank goodness. A big feed or two in the cafes and bars of Tekapo, then off to ChCh the following day.

An excellent and enjoyable 10 days was had by the three of us; Peter Wiles, Nigel Scott and Terry Crippen.

BANKS PENINSULA TRACK

February 2001

by Margaret Easton

In February, 2001, I, in company with two friends (non-club members) walked the Banks Peninsula Track. It is an organised tramp, over private farmland, along the coast, starting near Akaroa - itself a lovely place worth visiting. The four nights were spent in varied accommodation, pretty grand by some standards as we had showers, fully equipped kitchens, cold beer in fridges (only \$2.50 a can) and wonderful after a few hours tramping in the hot Canterbury sun.

At two of the "huts" we could purchase ingredients for meals, which we did - a steak and fresh vegie dinner was great. We elected to carry our packs, but they can be carted, for a price. Three of the days are coastal with great views of the cliffs, sea, and the wildlife that goes with it - sea-birds, including the occasional penguin, seals, and dolphins if you are lucky. One of the bays we over-nighted at, Flea Bay, has recently become a Marine Reserve.

The fourth day's tramping was through bush and beech forest for most of the day. It was a great tramp, would highly recommend it.

IRON GATES GORGE TRAMP Sunday 11 Feb by Elton and Stacey (the new ones)

The eight of us left for our epic journey into the unknown valley at 10am on Sunday morning. The weather was overcast and drizzling, but we did not complain. As we hiked our way, we were advised that the tramp was an easy/medium, but after climbing our first "mountain", we were questioning what "fitness essential" tramps would be like. As we twisted and turned our way through the beautiful views and scenery, stopping often for refreshments, we were introduced to the lovely "Pepper Tree". We recommend other people try chewing its leaves.

After a well deserved lunch stop, we rock hopped our way down the Oroua River, crossing more than once. We were rewarded with a refreshing dip in the cool, clear, calm waters of the Iron Gates Gorge. As advised, the contents of our packs were packed into PNCC rubbish bags to keep dry, as we leapt into the waters. This was a lot of fun. Once through the rapids, we all enjoyed a relaxing dip, while Steve, Nick, and Ian enjoyed a ride down one of nature's "hydro slides". Now that we were all wet, Warren advised us that we still had a long way to go. We saw some interesting sights, such as fossilised sea

shells, on the cliffs and the river edge some 20 metres below the land above. Making our way back along the goat track seemed to be more difficult than getting there, but very enjoyable. I think everyone was glad to see the cars. Even though we could not walk for two days afterwards, we had the time of our lives, and cant wait for the next EASY tramp.

We were: Warren Wheeler, Duncan Hedderly, Andrea, Elton, Stacey, Steve, Nick, and Ian.

PARKS PEAK HUT

4 March

by Martin Lawrence

After a reasonably long car trip we were ready to freshen up with the trek up to Parks Peak hut. The track we took starts North of Gwavas Forest, at Sentry Box Hut. The first stretch of this trip is a reasonably steep climb in the open. On a hot Hawkes Bay summers day we would have baked so I guess we were lucky to be walking in a cooling drizzle all day. Once on the ridge line the going was easier and we made the hut in reasonable time.

It is always great to return by a different route, so the plan was that we would return from the hut a short way before dropping off the ridge down the old Kamatua Track. The track was fairly overgrown in parts but had plenty of flashes so we managed reasonable progress downhill.

As we got near the stream at the bottom, the track became very unclear to us. We had seen farmland reasonably close so having failed to find any more useful flashes set off down the stream. The stream was small but overgrown to an extent that only a Hobbit could easily have managed to walk down it. However we did persevere for about half an hour before deciding to veer out of it and head North hoping to hit the farmland and the road. Liz stopped leading at this stage as she had unfortunately lost both contact lenses from being poked with sticks.

Out of the creek we very quickly reached the correct track and the road. We thought that we should return to do the reverse trip and locate the easy route out.

We were Liz, Arthur, Jenny, Martin and Anne.

MAHARAHARA CROSSING

March 11

by Duncan Hedderly

The Maharahara Crossing is a thing of legends (well, anecdotes) in the club. I had been here 3 years and not done it, so when Tony offered it on the trip card, I leapt at it.

We went in from the Dannevirke side, which I would guess is the easier way to do it. There is about half an hour of steep ascent early on, through possum damaged forest, but after that it is more gentle. There is also about a kilometre of river to walk up between the carpark and the start of the ascent, but Tony (or rather Tony's 4WD) halved that. The day started off overcast, but by the time we were up in the leatherwood belt, it was beginning to clear, at least on the western side. To the east, however, there was still a wall of cloud.



We reached Matanginui, which is the first of the two peaks, and stopped for some wonderful views of the Pohangina valley, and right out to Ruapehu and Taranaki. We had good views of several slips, and at one point, could see Keritaki Hut far below us. This fine hut is otherwise known as "SEAMAC" Motel, after the two builders, Seater and MacManee. Tony said he would continue with us to Maharahara itself, then turn round, get the car, and bring it round to the Pohangina side, while we descended.



So we had a leisurely lunch at Maharahara, figuring that since it had taken us nearly 3 hours to come up, retracing his steps and driving around would take at least that long for Tony, while our descent would be quicker. It certainly was quick, with the corollary that it was steep too. There are some magnificent Rata trees at the bottom of the track. We briefly looked in at Opawe Hut at the edge of the Forest Park, then plodded the last kilometre over farmland to the road (Well, I plodded it; Warren seemed as lively as ever).

At the road we had a drink and settled down with a copy of Wilderness magazine and the Tararua Tramping Club newsletter to wait for Tony, who we expected would be at least an hour. He turned up about 10 minutes later!. The Waterford is on the way back from Opawe, and for once it wasn't obviously packed out, so it would have been churlish not to stop for a relaxing Guinness or two.

We were Tony Gates, Warren Wheeler, Stephen Liddall, and Duncan Hedderley.

FOREST HILL RAMBLE by Dennis Moore

This walk was short and sweet,
On February 10th we did meet,
for a three hour walk,
and a lot of friendly talk.

At the top of Forest Hill Road, we did ramble,
carrying such a heavy load,
just a munch,
for our lunch.

Lots of stream crossings, on the stones,
the water was cold upon our bones.

There's history in these hills,
there was even a sawmill.
One hundred years ago, families lived on the top
of the ranges here.

In 1903 a backblock school was built there.

So life must have been hard up there then,
I thought as we trotted back home to 'Den Glen'
for a cuppa and a talk
after a lovely walk.

We were Monica, Noel, Tony, Sally, Glenda and
Dennis.

RUAPEHU WANDERINGS

24th March by Martin Lawrence

Yet another fine day was dawning as we left PN
early for Whakapapa. Whakapapa was bustling at
9:30 but we soon left the bustle behind as we
headed up the Ridge Track, past the 'end of track'
sign and on up Pinnacle Ridge.



After about half an hour we dropped off the ridge
to cross two small streams. We angled up this
valley and popped over the edge. An easy walk
on soft scoria lead us to another stream which
dropped over a bluff as a decent waterfall, well
actually it was a little short of water at this end of
the long dry summer.

Views from this part of the mountain are great.
Looking North East over a large tongue of lava
you see the Tama Lakes craters with Ngauruhoe
directly behind.

We easily made our way down to the base of the
waterfall, which seemed an idyllic lunch spot.
Peter suggested that we might like to explore a

small crater nearby before stopping – a well
worthwhile detour.

From here we simply headed over the lava flow
towards the Round the Mountain track and Tama
Lakes. On another trip we had seen a large group
of seagulls nesting here but saw none here this
day. Maybe they would come back at dusk, or
maybe the nesting season had finished for the
year. Peter spotted a couple of invading pines,
one of which was yanked out easily, the other was
hacked apart with pocket knives.



The Lower Tama Lake looked great as usual. No
one suggested visiting the Upper Lake so we
headed on the track back to Whakapapa.



This is a great summer round trip, with much
more variety than a simple return walk to Tama
Lakes offers.

We were Peter, Neil, Martin and Anne.

Lots of Club members have been doing plenty of longer or different trips, here in NZ and overseas (club and private trips). The list below has been compiled to show who has done what over the last year. Hopefully it will encourage us to try that longer South Island trip we have been thinking about, or to do even more longer trips, or to do some tramping or cycling while overseas, etc. And if you want some info about a particular trip I'm sure the club members listed will be only too keen to help.

Note: In many cases there is only one name listed against a trip; that DOESN'T imply that it was a solo trip (ie I'm not recommending solo tramping here). Its just that only club and ex club member names are listed. Also I have only included one 'local' trip (Tararua, Ruahine, TNP, etc) - ask round for trips here.

The plan is for the list to be an annual summary (April to the following March) but seeing its the first compilation included are some significant ones from slightly earlier than April 2000.

Apologies for any errors or if I've left your some out.

* denotes ascents

April 2000

Temple-Huxley Valleys; Hopkins area Tony Gates
(Easter-ANZAC) Sabine-D'Urville Valleys; Nelson Lakes NP: *Franklin
Terry Crippen, Barry Scott, Christine Cheyne, Nigel Scott, Chris Underwood, Nigel Hough

May 2000

Cycle touring; Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Patrick Janssen

June 2000

Highlands; Scotland: *230 Munros Peter Burgess

July 2000

Lake District; England Dave Grant, Duncan Grant
Sealy Range; Mt Cook NP: *Sealy Bruce van Brunt, Clive Marsh
Pyrenees; Spain Dave Grant, Duncan Grant

August 2000

Canoeing; Sweden Warren Wheeler, Kristina Mattsson
Artic circle; Sweden Warren Wheeler, Kristina Mattsson

September 2000

Ski touring Murchison-Tasman Valleys; Mt Cook NP: *Broderick, *Phyllis
Dave Henwood, Don French
Grindelwald; Switzerland Dave Grant, Duncan Grant
Hopkins Valley; Ohau area Derek Sharp

October 2000

Nepal: Annapurna Sanctuary, Dhaulagiri Circuit John Phillips, Alan Bee, James Gordon
(Labour w/e) Southern Crossing; Tararua FP
Laurence Gatehouse, Warren Wheeler, Gina Femor, Christine Taylor, Anneli Baehr
(Labour w/e) 1000 Acre Plateau, Maitai Valley; Kahurangi NP
Tony Gates, Stephen Liddall, Martin Lawrence, Terry Crippen
Rainbow-Begley Valleys; St Arnauld area Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne

November 2000

Sealy Range; Mt Cook NP Bruce van Brunt
Cobb Valley; Kahurangi NP Monica Cantwell

December 2000

Waimakariri & White Valleys-Harman Pass; Arthur's Pass NP Sarah Todd, Dave Simcock, Harley Betts

Hollyford Track; Fiordland NP West Matukituki Valley; Aspiring NP: *Aspiring Travers Valley; Nelson Lakes NP	Monica Cantwell Chris Underwood Tony Gates, Dennis Moore, Sally Hewson, Yvonne Vanderdoes, Glenda Moore Bruce van Brunt Christine Taylor
Tasman Valley; Mt Cook NP: *Aiguilles Rouges Travers-Sabine; Nelson Lakes NP: *Franklin	
<u>January 2001</u>	
Ross Sea; Antarctica Bracken Snowfield, Smythe-Whitcombe Valleys; Westland Arthur's Pass to Lewis Pass Clarke-Otoko-Mahitahi Valleys; Westland: *Hooker, *Dechen, *Strachan	Harley Betts Tony Gates, Pete McGregor Liz Morrison Dave Henwood, Don French Liz Morrison
Arthur's Pass to Lewis Pass Olivine Ice Plateau, Beansburn; Mt Aspiring NP: *Destiny, *Little Ark	Barry Scott, Nigel, Green, Terry Crippen, Richard Lovell Liz Morrison
Mangapurura Valley; Wanganui NP Queen Charlotte Walkway; Marlborough Sounds Godley-McKinnon Valleys: *Malthus, *Dennistoun, *Forbes Greenstone-Caples Valleys	Bruce van Brunt Terry Crippen, Peter Wiles, Nigel Scott Peter Burgess
<u>February 2001</u>	
St James Walkway, Lewis Pass Hooker-Copeland Valleys; Mt Cook-Westland NPs: *Sefton West Matukituki; Mt Aspiring NP: *Aspiring (Waitangi we) Mt Arthur Tablelands, Cobb Valley; Kahurangi NP	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne Bruce van Brunt Andrew Lynch Tony Gates, Yvonne Vanderdoes, Sally Hewson
<u>March 2001</u>	
Caving, Mts Owen & Bell; Kahurangi NP Sabine-D'Urville Valleys; Nelson Lakes NP	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters Mick Leyland, Llew Pritchard, Jenny Pritchard
<u>Some trips from the 1990-2000 summer</u>	
Routeburn-Rockburn; Aspiring NP Rees-Dart Valleys; Mt Aspiring NP Mt Arthur Tableland; Kahurangi NP Lawrence-Sinclair Valleys; Rangitata area: *Arrowsmith, *Ashburton, *Outlaw, *Renegade, *Amazon	Dave Henwood Liz Morrison Liz Morrison Peter Wiles, Terry Crippen, Nigel Green, Nigel Scott
Kepler Track; Fiordland NP Domett Range -Roaring Lion; Kahurangi NP Hollyford Track; Fiordland NP Franz-Fox; Westland NP: *Jervois, *Aigrette	Merv Matthews, Liz Flint Graham Peters, Janet Wilson Merv Matthews, Liz Flint Terry Crippen, Nigel Scott, Nigel Green, Richard Lovell
Tasman Valley; Mt Cook NP: *Nuns Veil Copeland Valley; Westland NP: *Sefton NW Circuit; Stewart Island	Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp Liz Flint
